

## 6. International aid in environmental protection

From 1991 to 2001, in implementing environmental protection policy Latvia received the financial aid in the amount of approximately LVL 146.84 millions from its bilateral co-operation partners, international organisations and European Union programmes and funds (Figure 6.1.). International aid has been attracted mainly for the development of water management, projects of municipal and hazardous waste management, environmental protection, reduction of air pollution and radiation safety projects. Within a time period from 1999 to 2001 the proportion of funds of the European programmes and funds (ISPA, Phare, since 2001 - Life, etc.) in the attracted international aid has increased from 42% in 1999 to 92% in 2001, because such funds have assigned the co-financing for the sizeable financial projects of environmental protection infrastructure. With the establishment of the European Union ISPA fund for the co-financing of environmental and transport infrastructure projects, the aid

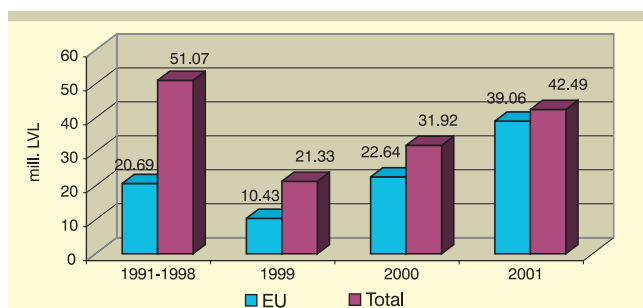


Figure 6.1. International aid to environmental protection  
Source: Investment Department of the Ministry of Environment

of the EU Phare programme to environmental infrastructure projects has reduced, because in conformity with the EU regulation on co-ordination of pre-structural financial instruments single type of activities may not be financed from several instruments. The financing of the EU Phare programme in environmental sector is mainly attracted to projects for strengthening of institutions.

Majority of funds has been attracted for implementation of projects of environmental protection infrastructure - in 2001 already 86% of the international aid attracted comprise investments in the infrastructure projects. The most sizeable financial projects are the water management infrastructure projects in the largest cities of Latvia - Riga, Ventspils,

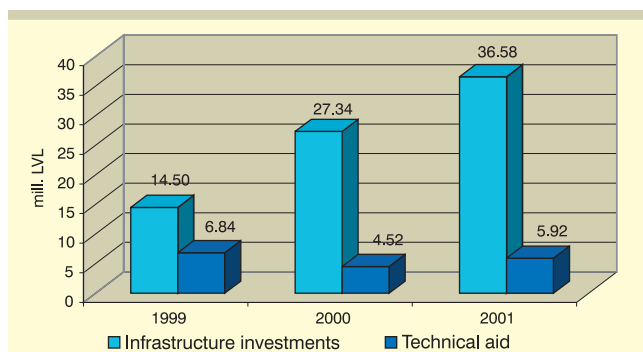


Figure 6.2. International aid by sectors  
Source: Investment Department of the Ministry of Environment

Jūrmala, Jelgava, Rēzekne and the joint water management project of local governments of East Latvia water basins, as well as regional municipal waste management projects in Liepāja, Ventspils and North Vidzeme.

Basically the Latvian environmental legislative acts has been already harmonised with the requirements of EU directives, therefore the main attention shall be paid to introduction of environmental legislation, it means, investments for organisation of environmental infrastructure increase, but less foreign financial aid is attracted for improvement of environmental protection legislation, as well as, by increase of experience and competence of specialists, for preparation of projects and training of specialists. But foreign aid has increased for strengthening of administrative abilities which is insufficient in conformity with conclusions of the European Commission Regular Report (Figure 6.2.).

	1999	2000	2001.
Investments in infrastructure	14.496	27.339	36.575
Strengthening of institutions	0.756	2.131	5.057
Legislation	1.208	1.056	0.553
Research, preparation of projects	3.784	0.928	0.231
Training, exchange of experience	1.092	0.409	0.074
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.336</b>	<b>31.863</b>	<b>42.49</b>

Table 6.3. International aid by sectors, million LVL  
Source: Investment Department of the Ministry of Environment

### Sources:

- /1/ Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. Report on Environmental Investments, 1992-1998
- /2/ Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. Report on Environmental Investments, Riga, 1999
- /3/ Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. Report on Environmental Investments, Riga, 2000
- /4/ Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. Report on Environmental Investments, Riga, 2001
- /5/ Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. Report on Environmental Investments 2003-2006, Riga, 2002

### Internet addresses:

Ministry of the Environment of Latvia:

[www.vidm.gov.lv](http://www.vidm.gov.lv)

ISPA:

[europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/funds/ispa/ispa\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/funds/ispa/ispa_en.htm)

Phare:

[europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm)

LIFE: [europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/home.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/home.htm)

**Author:** Sarmīte Kļaviņa